

We Compare 7 Super-Big TVs

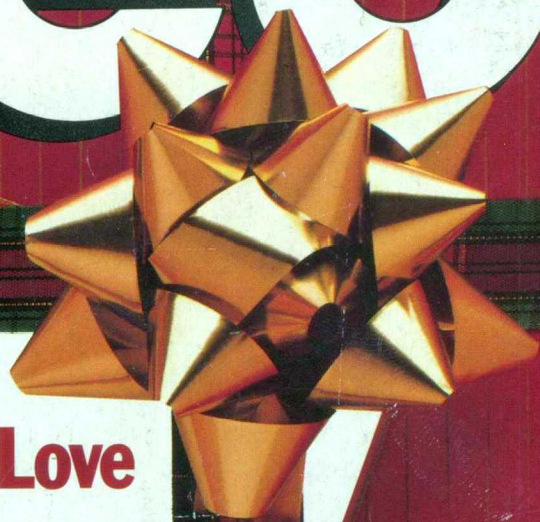
# Video

37869

\$1.95

DECEMBER 1985

Kenya Dig It!  
On Safari With 8mm



## A Gift Guide Yule Love

*14 Pages of VCRs,  
TVs, Cameras, Gear*

**Under \$400**

**Conquering  
Ophelia  
Tape  
Reviews**

**Donald Spoto Slow Scans**  
*The French Lt.'s Woman*

### *Berger-Braithwaite Videotests*

Sylvania MTS Monitor  
Pioneer Super Beta VCR  
Zenith Hi-Fi VCR  
Akai VHS VCR







118



80



135

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### VIDEO's Yuletide Gift Guide

This year's wish list is actually four: for the beginner, intermediate, advanced, and tube-crazy. *Porter/Slovick/Wielage* ..... 105

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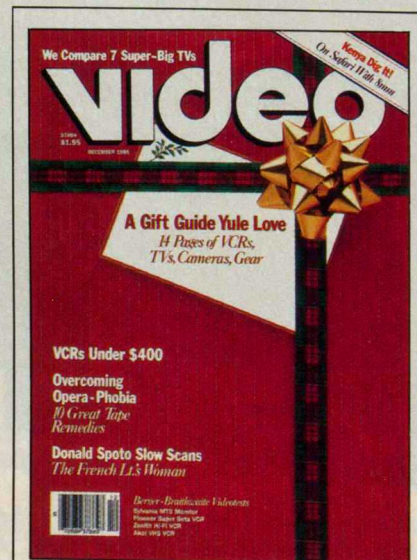
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## Videotests

Sylvania RKE198SL02 Monitor/Receiver  
Pioneer VX-50 SuperBeta Hi-Fi VCR  
Zenith VR3200 VHS Hi-Fi VCR  
Akai VS-303U No-Frills VHS VCR  
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**About the Cover.** Deck the halls with gobs of gear—our yearly Yuletide Gift Guide's here. In quadruplicate. Cover photo by Vittorio Sartor.

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# Random Access

## Personal Computers, News, and Games

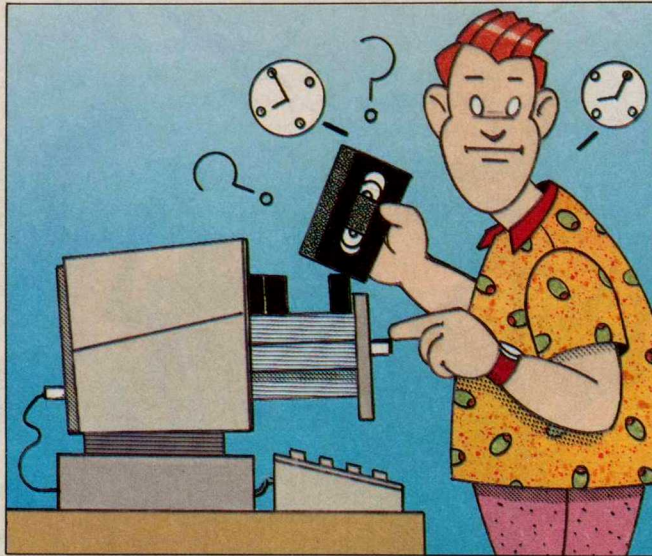
### Tapes By The Byteload

How many times have you accidentally taped over part of a television program you wanted to save? If you're like the rest of us, plenty. That's why *VideoFile*, a timeshifting database for the Commodore 64, the Apple II series, and IBM PCs is a great idea. The program catalogs your collection while a built-in calculator translates counter readings into hours and minutes.

Let's say you want to tape "A Stumble Through the 20th Century with Bill Moyers" on the cassette containing your mate's recording of "Julia Child Cooks Burnt Toast." In the interest of domestic bliss, you want to save the recipe for later holiday festivities. *VideoFile* makes it easy to see if you have space on the tape. Enter the length in hours and minutes of the program you want to record, and *VideoFile* will list all options. The first choice will be any tapes that have space at the beginning of a cassette, then other spaces within, then space that is almost enough, then too much, or none at all.

*VideoFile* provides three ways to list tapes. However, once you define the categories, that's it. They can't be changed, so take care to include a miscellaneous category to hold all those undefinable programs you may tape. You can list shows according to categories (movies, TV programs), alphabetically, or by length. You can also view the contents of a particular tape or list only the programs you want to save or record over. A printer option allows you to make a hardcopy version of your collection.

*VideoFile* takes into account counter mechanisms that track the revolutions of



the VCR's feeding hub or takeup hub. The most complicated thing about using *VideoFile* is determining your machine's hub type. For feeder hubs, the numbers are slow in the beginning and fast at the end. Vice versa for the takeup hubs. Bob Claster, who programmed and sells the database, says he has tested the counter calculation for 15 different machines and found it "dead on for each one."

Another fine feature is the use *VideoFile* makes of function keys. You can make one key stand for a string of characters—a programming concept known as macros. This cuts down on typing and the possibility of typos. You don't have to type common time increments for your favorite programs over and over. Just define a function key using the menu option. Push the appropriate function key when organizing your files, and the entry is found with only one keystroke.

A demonstration disk of *VideoFile* is available for \$10, deductible from the purchase price of \$49.95 (\$59.95 for the IBM version), from

VideoFile, Box 480210, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

### Lotus 4-5-6-7-8

Most computer users don't find working with Lotus 1-2-3 as simple as A-B-C. But Arthur Young Business Systems has made the bestselling spreadsheet easier to learn with two instructional video packages for high end users. Aimed at companies that need to train lots of computer workers fast, the primer, *Arthur Young's Lotus 1-2-3 Self-Teaching Video Course*, starts with the basics of turning on a computer and

setting up the program. Young's latest video in this series, *Advanced Macro Functions*, explores the more difficult and powerful routines.

The video courses assume no prior knowledge and both come with manuals and example disks (the Lotus program is not included). Students should have an IBM PC or compatible on hand to get the best benefit from these videos. The primer has two two-hour tapes, and *Advanced Macro Functions* includes three two-hour cassettes. The tape quickly points out the limitations of the program and the dangers of losing data during certain functions, like copying routines.

*Advanced Macro Functions* is a real plus for spreadsheet users. If you only learn how to set up the complicated command structure from the video, you'll save a lot of time in typing alone. The package comes with a disk containing 350 macros ready to transfer to your own spreadsheet. These include such useful functions as "type," which lets you define frequently used text for access with only one keystroke and "hide," which lets you

